

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a medical product, where the product is to be assembled from a plurality of components, each component being available in at least one variant, the method comprising the steps of:

~~presenting to a user, via a user interface, a first plurality of variants of a first one of said plurality of components;~~

~~receiving from the user an indication of a first variant selected from the first plurality of variants; presenting to the user via the user interface a graphical representation of the first variant;~~

~~characterised in that the method further comprises the steps of~~

~~presenting to the user, via the user interface, a second plurality of variants of a second one of said plurality of components;~~

~~receiving from the user an indication of a second variant selected from the second plurality of variants;~~

~~presenting to the user, via the user interface, a graphical representation of the first selected variant of the first component in a predetermined relationship to the second selected variant of the second component.~~

- a. presenting to a customer a first plurality of variants for a first component;
- b. receiving from the customer a selection of one of the variants for the first component;
- c. presenting to the customer a pictorial representation of the selected variant of the first component;
- d. presenting to the customer a second plurality of variants for a second component;
- e. receiving from the customer a selection of one of the variants for the second component; and
- f. presenting to the customer a pictorial representation of the product with the customer selected variant of the first component and the customer selected variant of the second component, wherein the pictorial representation accurately portrays the physical appearance of a product configured with the customer selected variants so that when the customer purchases an actual product with the customer selected variants the actual product will have the same appearance as the pictorial representation presented to the customer; and

- g. graphically animating the assembling of the first and second selected variants of the first and second components to illustrate to the customer how the user configured device is to be assembled.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a medical product that is to be assembled from a plurality of user-selectable components according to claim 1, characterised in that the method comprising the steps of: presenting to a customer a first plurality of variants for a first component;

- a. receiving from the customer a selection of one of the variants for the first component;
- b. representing to the customer a pictorial representation of the selected variant of the first component;
- c. presenting to the customer a second plurality of variants for a second component;
- d. receiving from the customer a selection of one of the variants for the second component; and
- e. presenting to the customer a pictorial representation of the product with the customer selected variant of the first component and the customer selected variant of the second component, wherein the pictorial representation accurately portrays the physical appears of a product configured with the customer selected variants so that when the customer purchases an actual product with the customer selected variants the actual product will have the same appearance as the pictorial representation presented to the customer;

and wherein the method further comprises the step of graphically animating the positioning of the second variant of the second component in the predetermined relationship to the first variant of the first component.

3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the method further comprises the step of interactively animating the positioning of the second variant of the second component in the predetermined relationship to the first variant of the first component, where the interactively animated positioning is controlled by user commands.

4. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the graphical representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined

relationship to the second variant of the second component is a three—dimensional rendering of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of changing the displayed representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component in response to user commands, where the changing of the displayed representation corresponds to operations selected from the class of operations comprising rotate, flip, pan, and zoom.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein characterised in ~~that~~ the method further comprises the step of animating the displayed representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component in response to user commands.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein the step of presenting to a user via a user interface a selected one of the first and second plurality of variants of the corresponding first or second component further comprises the step of limiting the presented plurality of variants to a subset of the corresponding first or second plurality of variants indicated as being available by a set of inventory data received from an inventory management system.

8. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 2 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of transmitting ordering information to a production management system, the order information including configuration data identifying the first variant of the first component and the second variant of the second component.

9. (Presently Amended) A system for customizing a product, where the product is assembled from a plurality of components, the system comprising first display means adapted to present a first plurality of variants of a first one of said plurality of components;

first input means adapted to receive an indication of a first variant selected from the first plurality of variants;

second display means adapted to present a graphical representation of the first selected variant;

characterised in that the system further comprises

third display means adapted to present a second plurality of variants of a second one of said plurality of components;

second input means adapted to receive an indication of a second variant selected from the second plurality of variants;

wherein the second display means is adapted to present a graphical pictorial representation of the product showing of the first selected variant of the first component in a predetermined relationship to the second selected variant of the second component such that the actual product will appear similar to the pictorial representation and wherein a fourth display means animates exemplary use of the graphical pictorial representation of the user configured device and wherein the graphical animation pictorially demonstrates the functioning of each user selected variant.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 9, characterised in that the system further comprises first processing means adapted to generate a graphical animation of the positioning of the second variant of the second component in the predetermined relationship to the first variant of the first component.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 10, characterised in that the system further comprises third input means adapted to receive user commands for controlling the graphical animation.

12. The system according to claim 9 wherein the graphical representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component is a three-dimensional rendering of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component.
13. (Previously Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein the system comprises fourth input means adapted to receive user commands corresponding to operations selected from the class of operations comprising rotate, flip, pan, and zoom; and the second display means is adapted to change the displayed representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component in response to the received user commands.
14. (Previously Amended) The system according claim 9 wherein the system further comprises second processing means adapted to generate an animation of the displayed representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component in response to user commands.
15. (Cancelled) The system according to claim 9, wherein a selected one of the first and second display means is adapted to limit the presented corresponding first or second plurality of variants to a subset of the corresponding first or second plurality of variants indicated as being available by a set of inventory data received from an inventory management system.
16. (Previously Amended) The system according to claim 9 wherein the system further comprises transmitting means adapted to transmit order information to a production management system, the order information including configuration data identifying the first variant of the first component and the second variant of the second component.
- 17-18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Amended) A computer program comprising program code means for

performing all the steps of ~~any one of the~~ claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

20. (Previously Amended) A computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for performing a method claim 1 when said ~~20~~ computer program product is run on a computer.

21. (Previously Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising program code means for performing all the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

22. (New)A method of customizing a medical device for a customer over a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. presenting to the user a plurality of options for a first component of the device;
 - b. presenting to the user a plurality of options for a second component of the device;
 - c. receiving from the user a selected option for the first and second component
 - d. graphically animating on a display screen assembly of the selected first and second components to form the customized device; and
 - e. graphically animating relative motion between the selected options of the components.
23. (New)A method of customizing a medical device for a customer over a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. presenting to the user a plurality of variants for a first component of the device;
 - b. presenting to the user a plurality of components of variants for a second component of the device;
 - c. receiving from the user selected variants for the first and second component
 - d. graphically animating on a display screen assembly of the selected variants of first and second components to form the customized device; and
 - e. graphically animating operation of the user customized device with a graphical

animation of the workings of the variants of the components selected by the user.

24. (New) A method of educating a user on how to use a user-customized medical device, the device being assembled from user specified components, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. presenting to the user a plurality of first components that each perform a first function;
 - b. presenting to the user a plurality of second components for performing a secondary function;
 - c. receiving from the user a selection for the first and second component;
 - d. presenting a pictorial representation of the user configured device having the user selected first and second components displayed in the manner in which they are to be assembled;
 - e. graphically animating use of the device so as to instruct the patient, by way of a graphical animation, how the patient's customized device performs its functions.